

# Potato shoots

## Brief summary:

In this experiment you will experiment with planting a potato in a shoebox with a small hole cut in it, and over several weeks watch as potato shoots emerge from the hole.

## You will need:

- Help from an adult
- A shooting potato (one that has little white shoots growing out of it)
- A shoe-box
- Scissors
- Potting mix
- Rocks

## What to do:

**Step 1.** Cut a small coin-size hole in the short end of the shoe-box. You can ask for help from an adult when cutting the hole.

**Step 2.** Put a handful of potting mix in the corner of the box at the opposite end from where you have made the hole.

**Step 3.** Lay the potato in the soil.

**Step 4.** Put the rocks in the box with the potato to create 'obstacles'.

**Step 5.** Put the lid on the box and put it somewhere where there is plenty of light.

**Step 6.** After 4 weeks, open the box and you'll see that the potato shoot has made it's way around and over the rocks to reach the hole where the sunlight is coming in.

## Take it further:

Have a look at our other experiments with plants - *How do seeds grow?* and *Talk to your plants!*

## Big questions:

- What is the difference between a fruit and a vegetable?
- What other vegetables grow under the ground?
- What is the difference between a root and a tuber?

